Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 00081 082056Z

70
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
---------- 045388
R 081828Z JAN 74
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3475
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T USNATO 0081

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS 12/31 82
TAGS: PFOR, NATO
SUBJ: TACNUC R&D BRIEFING FOR FRENCH

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECDEF AND USNMR SHAPE

REF: (A) PARIS 0322; (B) THE HAGUE 4890

BEGIN SUMMARY: WE HAVE NOTED THE RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED REF. (A) THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER OR A US *RIEFING TEAM PRESENT TO THE FRENCH BRIEFING ON US TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS R&D WHICH THE SECRETARY WILL GIVE TO NPG MINISTERS IN NORWAY NEXT JUNE. WHILE WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY PARIS THAT WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES TO INFLUENCE, WHERE POSSIBLE, FRENCH THINKING AND PLANNING CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT AND ROLE OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS, WE SEE CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PARTICULAR PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FIRST DIFFICULTY IS, OF COURSE, PRESENTED BY THE FACT OF CONTINUED FRENCH NON-MEMBERSHIP IN THE NPG, AND THEIR APPARENT LACK OF INTEREST IN (AND EVEN DISDAIN FOR) ITS WORK. WE HAVE TRADITIONALLY TREATED THE NPG AS AN EXCLUSIVE FORUM FOR FRANK DISCUSSION OF SENSITIVE ALLIANCE NUCLEAR PLANNING MATTERS, AND HAVE HELD CLOSELY THE DETAILED PROCEEDINGS OF NPG MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. WE AGREE FULLY WITH EMBASSY PARIS THAT WE MUST GUARD AGAINST THE FACT (OR APPEARANCE) OF
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 00081 082056Z

REWARDING FRENCH INDEPENDENCE IN DEFENSE MATTERS. WE FEEL, THAT OUR ALLIES MIGHT VERY WELL REGARD OUR PRESENTING TO THE FRENCH A BRIEFING WHICH, ALBEIT MODIFIED, HAD JUST BEEN PREPARED FOR AND DELIVERED TO NPG MINISTERS, AS EXACTLY

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

SUCH FAVORITISM. WE BELIEVE IT UNDESIRABLE TO SET SUCH A PRECEDENT, CERTAINLY IN THE ABSENCE OF PRIOR CONSULTATION IN THE NPG ITSELF.

2. SECOND, WE NOTE THAT THE BRIEFING ON TACNUC R&D WHICH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER WILL GIVE TO NPG MINISTERS IN JUNE WILL MARK THE FIRST OCCASION ON WHICH THE US HAS ENGAGED IN SUBSTATIVE DISCUSSION OF THIS SENSITIVE MATTER WITH OUR ALLIES. OUR PURPOSE IN BROACHING THE SUBJECT AT THIS TIME IS PRESUMABLY NOT ONLY TO EDUCATE OUR NPG ALLIES ON THE CURRENT STATE OF THE ART, BUT TO OPEN A DIALOGUE WHICH WILL BEGIN TO MOVE THE ALLIANCE TOWARD A CONSENSUS ON THE ADVANTAGES FOR NATO DEFENSE OF IMPROVEMENTS IN TACTICAL NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES. IN OUR VIEW, IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO PRESENT THE NPG BRIEFING ON THIS SUBJECT TO THE FRENCH (WHO ARE LIKELY TO BE HOSTILE TO OUR VIEWS) UNTIL WE HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY, THROUGH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S BRIEFING, THE RECENTLY-COMMISSIONED NPG STUDY ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY (PARA 30, REF. (B)), AND ASSOCIATED DISCUSSIONS, TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD THAT GOAL.

3. WHILE WE REMAIN SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL ABOUT OUR ABILITY TO INFLUENCE FRENCH TACTICAL NUCLEAR DOCTRINE, WE CERTAINLY DO NOT OPPOSE EFFORTS IN THAT DIRECTION. IT MIGHT WELL BE DESIRABLE, THEREFORE, FOR SECRETARY SCHLESINGER TO PURSUE THE GENERAL SUBJECT IN HIS FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH FRENCH MOD GALLEY. HE MIGHT REFER TO FRENCH PROGRESS IN DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF TACNUCS, COMMENT IN GENERAL TERMS ON THE ROLE OF TACNUCS IN NATO NUCLEAR PLANNING, AND EXPRESS THE VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE IN INTEREST OF FRANCE AND NATO FOR OUR PLANNING FOR THE USE OF SUCH WEAPONS TO BE AS COMPATIBLE AS POSSIBLE. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE MIGHT CALL ATTENTION TO POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS IN TACNUCS (E.G., IN IMPROVED ACCURACY AND REDUCED YIELDS) WHICH WOULD ENHANCE THEIR DETERRENT AND WAR FIGHTING CAPABILITIES. IF THE FRENCH SHOULD DEMONSTRATE INTEREST IN PURSUING THE MATTER, WE COULD CONSIDER MORE SUB-STANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM ON THE SUBJECT. WE URGE,

SECRET

HOWEVER, THAT IN ANY DEALINGS WITH FRENCH ON MATTERS UNDER NPG 'JURISDICTION," FULL ACCOUNT BE TAKEN OF VIEWS OF OUR ALLIES. RUMSFELD

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF, USNMR SHAPE.

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO00081
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740173/abbrysnk.tel
Line Count: 102
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: (A) PARIS 0322; (B) THE HAGUE 4890
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <03 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TACNUC R&D BRIEFING FOR FRENCH
TAGS: PFOR, NATO
To: STATE INFO PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005